

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4725

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/79

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, XH, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM ON ENERGY

A) USNATO 4329; B) USNATO 4492; C) STATE 191957

SUMMARY: U.S. REP AT SEPT. 27 ECONADS' MEETING ON PROPOSED SYMPOSIUM OPPOSED ENERGY TOPIC PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL C. BELGIN AND FRENCH REPS PROPOSED LIMITATION OF TOPIC TO CENTER ON EAST-WEST ENERGY COOPERATION AND EAST-LDC ENERGY RELATIONS. ALL REPS EXCEPT U.S. REACTED FAVORABLY TO BELGIAN AND FRENCH PROPOSALS. ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE ON OCTOBER 3 DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENT ON BELGIAN AND FRENCH PROPOSALS WHICH WE ARE FORWARDING SEPTTEL. RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER WAYS TO TRANSFORM PROPOSALS IN DOCUMENT INTO TOPIC ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. ECONADS CONSIDERED SUBJECT OF NATO ENERGY SYMPOSIUM SEPT.27. U.S. REP OPPOSED THE PROPOSED SYMPOSIUM PER REFTEL C. U.S. REP WAS FOLLOWED BY BELGIAN REP, WHO PROPOSED LIMITATION OF PROJECT TO CENTER ON PROSPECTS, CONDITIONS AND LIMITS OF EAST-WEST COOPERATION RE THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES. FRENCH REP ALSO PROPOSED THAT PROJECT INCLUDE RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND EMERGENT OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. ALL REPS CONFIDENTIAL

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EXCEPT U.S. REACTED FAVORABLY TO BELGIAN AND FRENCH PROPOSALS. CANADIAN REP, WHO HAD LED OPPOSITION TO EARLIER BROADER VERSION OF ENERGY SYMPOSIUM, THOUGHT THESE PROPOSALS A STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT WANTED TO SEE THEM IN WRITING. DENMARK ALSO WANTED

A WRITTEN PROPOSAL. U.K. REP SAID HIS COUNTRY IS NOW IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT SYMPOSIUM ON AN ENERGY TOPIC IF THERE WAS CONSENSUS. NETHERLANDS, ITALY AND NORWAY STRESSED THEIR VIEW THAT ENERGY IS AN IMPORTANT AND TIMELY SUBJECT AND THAT NATO WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM INFORMATION AND INSIGHTS OF ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS.

2. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (LAULAN) SAID THAT ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE WOULD PREPARE PROPOSAL BASED ON BELGIAN AND FRENCH SUGGESTIONS FOR REVIEW BY ECONADS. HE ALSO SAID ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE AS PRECAUTION WOULD BEGIN MAKING SUCH INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS AS COULD BE MADE WITHOUT COMMITTING NATO TO SYMPOSIUM. ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE DISTRIBUTED DOCUMENT OCTOBER 3 AND WE ARE TRANSMITTING COPY BY SEPTTEL. LAULAN ALSO NOTED THAT SYMPOSIUM COULD BE SUBJECT TO BLACKOUT OF PUBLICITY (AS WAS TOPIC ON "BANKING AND FINANCING IN THE USSR" AT UK REQUEST DUE TO FEAR OF COMPLICATING CSCE BASKET II)

3. COMMENT. BELGIAN AND FRENCH PROPOSALS, CENTERED ON EAST-WEST AND EAST-LDC ENERGY RELATIONS, HAVE THE VIRTUE OF MITIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF ARAB MISINTERPRETATION REFERRED TO IN REFTEL C, WHICH MIGHT ARISE FROM GENERAL ENERGY SYMPOSIUM IN NATO. HOWEVER, SECOND LAST PARAGRAPH OF ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE DOCUMENT GOES BEYOND BELGIAN AND FRENCH PROPOSALS BY BRINGING IN "BACKGROUND OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND POSITION" AND STATING "IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO EXAMINE WAYS IN WHICH IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, OVER THE NEXT TWO DECADES, TO BALANCE SUPPLY AND DEMAND."

4. MISSION BELIEVES THAT BELGIAN AND FRENCH PROPOSALS COULD BE MADE INTO A TOPIC AS USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE TO NATO'S ECONOMIC ROLE AS THE TWO PREVIOUS SYMPOSIUM TOPICS TO WHICH THE U.S. HAS ACQUIESCED. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER WAYS TO TRANSFORM PROPOSALS INTO TOPIC ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. (E.G. BY ELIMINATING SECOND LAST PARAGRAPH OF ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE DOCUMENT, OR BY LIMITING PUBLICITY). IF DEPARTMENT CANNOT DO THIS, WE SHALL NEED REASONS WE CAN USE IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. FOR EXAMPLE, WE DID NOT USE AT SEPT. 27 MEETING THE ARGUMENT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PARA 1(C) OF REFTEL C RE THE POTENTIAL FOR "EMBARRASSING STATEMENTS ON SUCH POLITICALLY SENSITIVE SUBJECTS SUCH AS A POSSIBLE U.S.-SOVIET NATURAL GAS AGREEMENT." WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT INTENDED THIS AS BACKGROUND ONLY. HOWEVER, ONE FACTOR WORTH CONSIDERING IS THAT U.S. REFUSAL TO CONSIDER CURRENT PROPOSAL RE EAST-WEST ENERGY COOPERATION WILL INEVITABLY RAISE ALLIED SUSPICION THAT U.S. DOES IN FACT FEAR EMBARRASSING STATEMENTS RE PROSPECTIVE U.S.- SOVIET ENERGY DEALS.

5. MISSION ALSO BELIEVES THAT IF U.S. TURNS DOWN CURRENT PROPOSAL, THEN WE SHOULD PROPOSE ANOTHER TOPIC. ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE NOW FAVOR A SYMPOSIUM. PARA 1(A) OF REFTEL C ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THERE IS LITTLE TO BE GAINED FROM

OPPOSITION IN PRINCIPLE IF U.S. ISOLATED ON THIS ISSUE. MISSION BELIEVES THAT CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH DICTATES THAT U.S. NEED NOT SIMPLY REJECT CURRENT PROPOSAL AND ASK THE ALLIES TO COME UP WITH A SUBJECT WE WOULD CONSIDER "USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE TO THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF NATO." TOPICS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED IN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE INCLUDE SOVIET TECHNOLOGICAL GAP; DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIA; IMPACT OF OIL ON EAST-WEST TRADE (REFTEL A). ANOTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST MIGHT BE DEVELOPMENTS IN COMECON AND IN COMECON'S RELATIONS WITH THE WEST.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS RE BELGIAN AND FRENCH PROPOSALS BY OCTOBER 9.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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